# Yansi language

**Yans** (Yanzi, Songo) is a Bantu language spoken in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

There are six language varieties Guthrie classified as Bantu B.85 (Yans). According to Nurse (2003), most belong to the Yaka language, but one or two are assigned to the Boma–Dzing languages (ex-Yanzi); he does not say which ones.

Maho (2009) notes that the Tsong variety of Yansi is the unclassified "Songo" language of *Ethnologue* and is the one that does not belong with the rest. Ehret (2009), however, retains most varieties in B.80 and classifies only "Yanz Kimatu" as Yaka. The six Guthrie varieties are the following:

- B.85A Mbiem, West Yansi
- B.85B East Yans
- B.85C Yeei
- B.85D Tsong (Itsong, Nsong, Ntsuo, "Songo")
- B.85E Mpur (Mput)
- B.85F Tsambaan

## References

1. Yansi (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/yns/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
   Songo (Tsong) (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/soo/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Yansi" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/yans1239). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Nsong" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/song1299). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Jouni Filip Maho, 2009. New Updated Guthrie List Online (https://web.archive.org/web/20180203191542/http://goto.glocalnet.net/mahopapers/nuglonline.pdf)

- Maho (2009) (http://goto.glocalnet.net/mahopapers/nuglonline.pdf)
- Ehret (2009) (http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/history/ehret/kinship/BantuClassification%204-09.pdf)

| Yansi | |
|---|---|
| *Eyansi* | |
| **Native to** | DR Congo |
| **Native speakers** | 100,000 (1997)[1] plus 13,000 Ntsuo (2002) |
| **Language family** | Niger–Congo<br>■ Atlantic–Congo<br>■ Benue–Congo<br>■ Bantoid<br>■ Bantu (Zone B)<br>■ some Yaka (H.30) some Boma–Dzing (B.80)<br>■ **Yansi** |
| **Dialects** | Yans proper<br>Mbiem<br>Yeei<br>Tsong<br>Mpur |
| **Language codes** | |
| **ISO 639-3** | Either:<br>`yns` – Yansi<br>`soo` – Songo (Tsong) |
| **Glottolog** | `yans1239` (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/yans1239) Yansi[2]<br>`song1299` (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/song1299) Songo[3] |

| Guthrie code | B.85[4] |
| --- | --- |